

The Hose Line



Volume 4, Issue 3

July 2013

From The Chief's Desk

Les Lockwood retired after 29 years on July 5. Instead of the customary fire station reception, we added a formal walkout ceremony. Included in the ceremony were gift presentations from DFD, City, Union, family and members from Station 1, First Battalion. Those in attendance said it went well as did Les and his family. Any member of the Department may request a similar ceremony at their retirement. The walkout ceremony is a fitting way to close out a career in the fire service. It is an opportunity to formally present gifts and say good luck.

Les's retirement created a battalion chief vacancy. Captain Jerry Sullivan filled that vacancy. Jerry became First Battalion's Chief July 2. Battalion Chief Sullivan's administrative duties include managing the Department's fire training as well as the day-to-day operations on First Battalion. We wish Battalion Chief Sullivan the best of luck.

With regard to fire training, I had the opportunity to visit the newly constructed State Farm office building north of Station 5. By code, it is an office complex but essentially, it is no more than a ranch style residence with a walkout basement. I make mention of this for a couple of reasons. As is typical in Decatur and other newly constructed buildings in our region, the entire floor system is a truss design. This system is 2x4s fastened by gusset plates. The underside of the floor in the State Farm office is not protected by drywall directly beneath the main entrance. The area beneath the main entrance, in the basement, is the mechanical area for the office. The HVAC, water heater and general storage are all located here. I did not tour the adjacent office but it is very likely the basement layout is similar.

So what? Think about it! The building is less than two years old. It meets all City codes. It is a ranch style structure with a basement common to Decatur. Bread and butter fire tactics right? WRONG. It is a firefighter trap...

April 4, 2008, two firefighters were killed when they entered a residence and fell through the first floor into a burning basement.

January 26, 2007, a firefighter died when he fell through the first floor into the basement after entering 20 ft into a residence.

Aug 13, 2006, two firefighters entered a residence and fell through the first floor. One firefighter fell directly into the room of origin while the other fell into an adjacent room and managed to crawl out a basement window and survived.

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1415 N. Water Street
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There are more but you get my point. All had truss floors. All were basement fires. Moreover, in all instances the firefighters fell through the floor just inside the structures entrance.

We must consider this at every fire, new and old construction, residential or commercial. Make your 360 to determine if the building has a basement. Truss floor systems are prevalent in both new and renovation construction because they are cheap and quick to install. If you suspect there is a basement and you believe you have a working fire, presume the fire is in the basement. Consider an alternative entry point like a basement door. Sound the floor before entry with your forcible entry tools and by all means scan the entry with your TIC. The TIC is valuable tool for detecting heat from below but not failsafe. Built up floor surfaces, tile, or marble foyers, and heavy carpet will shield heat detection from thermal imaging devices.

Also, consider the detection of a basement fire is more than likely delayed simply by the nature of its

location and limited exterior visibility. So by the time the fire is detected, we arrive on the scene and crawl though the entry, the floor is ready to fail.

Officers, get out in your first due territories and locate structures with basements. Check out any rehabilitation projects or new construction. If you know of one outside your territory check it out too! There is not a lot of construction activity going on so you may need to find it. Look for alternative access points and consider how you would make a quick exterior attack to slow the fire growth and ventilate.

Firefighters, ask your officer to show you or find locations where light weight construction is being utilized so you can see for yourself how easily this type of construction can fail when exposed to fire. Google firefighter fatalities and near miss incidents related to lightweight construction. There is plenty in NIOSH reports related to lightweight construction too.

Please, be smart out there. Thanks!

April Monthly Report

During April, the Decatur Fire Department responded to 642 calls for assistance. Of those calls for assistance, 6 were structure fires that caused \$9,700 in direct property loss. Other fires (vehicles, non-structure, brush, etc) totaled 6 with \$2490 in property loss. The Fire Department also responded to 360 rescue/emergency medical calls, 39 false alarm calls, 26 hazmat responses, and all other calls totaled 205.

Seven divers attended Public Safety Dive Class. Class was held at Station 1 the first day, Millikin pool the second day, and a pond for the third day of training. Three firefighters attended confined space operations class at IFSI.

This month's training consisted of hydrant testing. All companies in the city were assigned hydrants to complete during the month of April. Testing was accomplished in coordination with the Water Department. Deficiencies were forwarded to the repair division of the Water Department. This hydrant testing is an annual event that is required by the ISO rating division.

The RIT drill was continued this month. The Dunn Company has graciously agreed to let us continue this training. This RIT drill focused on calling the mayday and use of the TIC camera. It also showed how commercial tactics differ from residential tactics.

Several people completed their Firefighter III practicals during the month. We participated in an extrication demonstration for St. Teresa High School, as well as participating in several neighborhood meetings and public relations during the month.

This month's continuing education hours for EMS were on rescue struts. The training was completed at Decatur Auto Parts. Decatur Auto Parts had cars that were on their side and upside down. It gave our crews the chance to utilize some of our specialized rescue equipment. Engine 1 and Engine 4 ran the training because they are the only ones with these particular pieces of equipment.

The State Run Form portion of the Firehouse program is running. Our EMS reports can now be forwarded to the state through Firehouse software.

May Monthly Report

During May, the Decatur Fire Department responded to 789 calls for assistance. Of those calls for assistance, 9 were structure fires that caused \$76,050 in direct property loss. Other fires (vehicles, non-structure, brush, etc) totaled 5 with \$90,000 in property loss. The Fire Department also responded to 455 rescue/emergency medical calls, 36 false alarm calls, 15 hazmat responses, and all other calls totaled 269.

Hazmat Technicians (14) trained on the chlorine patch kits and the PID monitor. A hazmat drill was conducted at Tate and Lyle. This annual drill was held in concert with Tate and Lyle's emergency response team. Eleven divers on two separate days conducted a search for the Decatur Police Department under the county bridges using our new sonar. Fire companies toured the Decatur Corrections Center on East Mound.

Hose testing was accomplished during the month of May, there were very few problems noted. This hose testing is required to be done once a year as part of the compliance with our ISO rating.

The RIT drill was completed for all shifts this month. Inclement weather played a role in trying to complete

this training. A best practice for RIT teams will be distributed because of this drill.

We sent several people to University of Illinois classes. Company Officer; which trains officers in decision-making and crew safety, was one of the classes. The next class was Advanced Breathing Apparatus; teaching firefighters advanced techniques in Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for their own rescue and the rescue of others. Several firefighters attended the Richland Community College class; Vehicle Machinery Operations, a basic auto extrication class.

There were 4,482 hours of training logged for the month of May.

The Fire Prevention Division conducted 6 fire investigations; 2 incendiary, 3 accidental, and 1 undetermined. Monthly activities included plan reviews (9), consultations & follow-ups (4), inspections and re-inspections (97), fireworks permit tests (4), juvenile fire setter interventions (4), fire extinguisher class (1), smoke alarm installation (1), and (3) fire safety presentations. Inspectors Ball and Wigginton attended the OSFM Fireworks Class and all of the fire prevention staff took the OSFM fire service vehicle operations exam.

June Monthly Report

During June, the Decatur Fire Department responded to 689 calls for assistance. Of those calls for assistance, 6 were structure fires that caused \$20,700 in direct property loss. Other fires (vehicles, non-structure, brush, etc) totaled 5 with \$10,000 in property loss. The Fire Department also responded to 393 rescue/emergency medical calls, 32 false alarm calls, 20 hazmat responses, and all other calls totaled 232.

The trench trailer equipment and trench policies were reviewed. Companies toured Millikin University. All fire companies did their Haz-mat Operations Refresher this month.

The Fire Prevention Division conducted 6 fire investigations; 4 incendiary, 1 accidental, and 1 undetermined. Monthly activities included plan reviews (9), keybox installations/removals (25) consultations & follow-ups (4), inspections and re-inspections (42), fireworks permit tests (7), fireworks site visits (3), fire extinguisher class (4), smoke alarm installation (2), and (7) fire. Inspectors Ball and Wigginton attended the Vehicle Machinery Ops class.

Type of Alarm (01/01/2013 - 06/30/2013)

1st Alarm	103
EMS	2,835
Supervisory	260
Still	797
2nd Alarm	6
Fire Investigation	1
Total	<u>4,002</u>

Incidents by Unit (01/01/2013 - 06/30/2013)

Fire Chief	5	Engine 3	827
Deputy Chief	16	Engine 4	508
Fire Marshal	4	Engine 5	723
Fire Inspector - 701	18	Engine 6	619
Fire Inspector - 702	14	Engine 7	316
Fire Inspector - 703	11	Engine 8	1
Battalion One	149	Tower 1	359
Engine 1	978	Truck 2	243
Engine 2	532	Total	<u>5,323</u>

Major Incidents

3475 N. RUPP PKWY

Found a delivery truck backed up to loading dock. The entire cab was engulfed in flames. No fire in building. DFD firefighters used 1 ¾" line to extinguish fire. E5 crew assisted in overhaul. All other companies called off.

Estimated \$90,000 in property loss

125 BROOKFIELD

Report of a structure fire with a person who refused to exit. E-6 reported 50% involvement of a mobile home. They reported a burn victim and a person near the structure. Then quickly reported 100% involvement. E-6 called for an ambulance. E-6 pulled an 1-3/4" line and started attacking the fire. E-3 was next in and got the hydrant line and assisted E-6 with the initial line. E-1 took the second line in and assisted in knocking down the fire. T-1 was ordered to open the back door and vent the windows, then pull the meter and shut off the gas. E-2 took the RIT

assignment. The fire was brought under control. The ambulance arrived and took control of the burned patient. They also took the second victim to the hospital. Despite our best efforts 2 dogs and 2 cats succumbed to the fire. 1 dog was saved. All animals were turned over to animal control.

Estimated \$45,000 property loss

920 E. ELMHURST

E-1 first on scene, black smoke coming from windows of a single story wood frame. E-1 force front door, E-4 force back door, E-2 secured the utilities, E-1 pulled 1 ¾ hose line in front door, T-1 split crew, two to roof, two inside to do primary search. Fire was located in CD side bedroom. Primary search completed indicated no occupants in residence. Windows were taken out for ventilation and fire extinguished.

Estimated \$21,000 property loss

Happy Anniversary!

August

FM Lyle Meador	8/16/1990	23
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September

FF Gary Gundy	9/4/2008	5	FF Jason Nolan	9/4/2008	5
FF Tom Brauer	9/5/1991	22	Insp Brad Gillmar	9/5/1991	22
FF Rick Elliott	9/5/1991	22	Lt Mark Plotner	9/5/1991	22
FF Mike Taylor	9/5/1995	18			
Lt Scott Smith	9/5/1996	17	Lt Doug Sprague	9/5/1996	17
FF Chris Bright	9/6/2007	6	FF Kevin Koehn	9/6/2007	6
FF Tina German-Roberts	9/6/2007	6	FF Jason Romack	9/6/2007	6
FF John Snowden	9/6/2007	6			
FF Justin Brownfield	9/6/2012	1	FF Travis Garrett	9/6/2012	1
FF Ross Garman	9/6/2012	1	FF Paul Higar	9/6/2012	1
FF Blake Johnson	9/6/2012	1			
Capt Mike Bruce	9/8/1994	19	Capt Jim Ohl	9/8/1994	19
Capt Dan Kline	9/8/1994	19	FF Rick Warren	9/8/1994	19
Capt John Bolletta	9/9/1993	20	Lt Doug Neff	9/9/1993	20
Capt Bill Godfrey	9/9/1993	20	Capt Gary Workman	9/9/1993	20
Capt Mark Langston	9/9/1998	15	Capt Rich Pruitt	9/9/1998	15
Lt Neil Elder	9/10/2004	9	FF Bob Guthrie	9/10/2004	9
Lt Jeff Foster	9/10/2004	9	Lt Matt Hinds	9/10/2004	9
Lt Toby Jackson	9/10/2004	9	FF Bryce McCleary	9/10/2004	9
Lt Brian Lockwood	9/10/2004	9	FF Clif Miller	9/10/2004	9
Lt Dylan Pritts	9/10/2004	9	FF David Qualls	9/10/2004	9
Capt Joel Garrett	9/15/1983	30			
FF Jeff Blair	9/25/1989	24			
FF Justin Kraus	9/26/2005	8			
FF John Baer	9/30/1999	14	Lt Paige Griffy	9/30/1999	14
Lt Scott Gillen	9/30/1999	14	FF Steve Mabry	9/30/1999	14
FF Steve Penhallegon	9/30/1999	14	FF Mitch Ward	9/30/1999	14

October

FF Jason Bruns	10/1/2009	4	FF Todd Zimmerman	10/1/2009	4
FF Tim Lay	10/1/2009	4			
Capt Tom Howard	10/8/1981	32			
FF Nick Haake	10/9/2012	1			
FF Kalib Brown	10/22/2009	4	FF Brad Lockwood	10/22/2009	4
FF Kory Fenton	10/22/2009	4	FF Jeff Park	10/22/2009	4
FF Wade Smith	10/22/2009	4	FF Craig Stevens	10/22/2009	4

November

Insp Larry Ball	11/14/1988	25	Capt Jeff Hott	11/14/1988	25
Capt Chris Culp	11/14/1988	25	Capt Bob Wetzel	11/14/1988	25

“When a man becomes a fireman his greatest act of bravery has been accomplished. What he does after that is all in the line of work.”

Edward F. Croker, Chief of the Fire Department of New York City (1899-1911)



Lt Matt Hinds	33	8/2/1980
Lt Doug Sprague	51	8/3/1962
Lt Paige Griffy	46	8/3/1967
FF Darren Winchester	32	8/5/1981
FF Ryan Pritts	31	8/11/1982
FF Jeff Blair	52	8/13/1961
Capt Wade Watson	40	8/13/1973
Capt Chris Culp	48	8/15/1965
FF Jason Bruns	40	8/15/1973
FF Jeff Snyder	39	8/17/1974
FF Dustin York	31	8/31/1982
Capt Tom Howard	57	9/5/1956
FF Kevin Koehn	35	9/5/1978
Capt Mike Aukamp	56	9/6/1957
FF Steve Penhallegon	44	9/10/1969
FF David Qualls	37	9/12/1976
FF Nick Haake	35	9/15/1978
Capt Bob Wetzel	56	9/14/1957
FF Mike Smith	29	9/19/1984
Admin Sec Ella Jelks	46	9/21/1967
FF Chris Downey	33	9/21/1980
FF Tyler Newsome	42	9/23/1971
FF Brad Lockwood	34	9/23/1979
FF Mike Taylor	50	9/24/1963
FF Travis Garrett	26	9/29/1987
Lt Doug Neff	55	10/1/1958
DC Jeff Abbott	45	10/1/1968
FF Blake Johnson	27	10/1/1986
BC Jerry Sullivan	53	10/5/1960
Capt Tony Vespa	47	10/7/1966
FF Dustin Morrison	30	10/8/1983
FF Pat McKarnen	54	10/8/1959
Capt Wally Moore	52	10/12/1961
FF Justin Kraus	33	10/13/1980
Capt Rich Pruitt	49	10/22/1964
Capt Bill Godfrey	50	11/7/1963
Lt Ben Taylor	44	11/9/1969
Lt David Gagnon	53	11/11/1960
Lt Neil Elder	41	11/14/1972